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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 302. NOVEMBER, 1931.

INVOLUTION. Forth-going. EVOLUTION. Return. LIBERATION. Home.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

"The Mystery which is beyond the world, that by which all things exist, it is all *involution* and all *evolution*; because of it, all mysteries exist, and all their regions."—*Gnostic Gospel: "Pistis Sophia."*

* * *

Many of our congregations are looking forward to the United Service in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, on Sunday, 22nd inst., when the Rev. Herbert Barnes will be the preacher. An Ulster man, he knows how to appeal to Ulster people, and it is expected that this meeting will be as successful and even more so, as on the previous visit of Mr. Barnes. The hall is a large one, but experience has shown lately that it is not too large for services of the N.S.P. Church. Service begins at 7; but, it would be well to secure seats an hour before-hand.

* * *

The Ulster Hall meetings coming just at the beginning of the winter's work should send a great wave of enthusiasm and new life over our congregations. Even where numbers are only small, the work is well worth while, classes, socials, guilds, leagues, mothers' meetings, boy scouts—it is not what is done, that counts; but, the spirit in which it is done.

* * *

"A highway shall be there, and a way." Several of our ministers have cars and know what good and bad roads mean. One had the experience of turning a somersault, and for a moment seeing the world from another point of view; and another got into a ditch. A new type of road is being built, proving itself superior to all others, and in Texas, the experiment has proved successful; it only costs half the price of asphalt, and after fifteen months of heavy traffic shows no sign of wear. The road is built with unbleached canvas as a binder, a new use for cotton fabric. A cotton road reminds us of a paper house on Dartmoor, and a very strong weather-proof building it is, and no one, looking at it, would think it other than a stone house.

* * *

York Street Anniversary Service in the Ulster Hall, on October 4th, was undoubtedly a wonderful occasion. The meeting was timed for 7. At ten minutes to seven there were two thousand four hundred and eighty people present, after which people turned away and turned others away on the way up. Over five hundred visitors were entertained to tea at York Street. Three old members came from England. A number of orthodox ministers were in the audience. There were contingents from remote parts of Co. Down and Co. Antrim. The ex-Moderator presided in place of the Rev. G. J. Slipper, Moderator, who had a prior engagement at Holywood. 300 extra copies of the "N.S.P." were taken by York Street.

* * *

The admirable Sunday School Manuals reviewed, in this issue, are well worth the consideration of Sunday School Committees.

* * *

The re-opening of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House at Antrim, by the Moderator, was attended by an overflowing congregation, and representatives of various denominations were present. May there be many more such congregations in the Old Meeting House.

* * *

Judging from the reports which have come in, and from what has been heard, the Harvest

Thanksgiving in all our congregations was very successful. The times are hard, and it is a great thing to have been able to celebrate so brightly and heartily this festival.

* * *

Any news relating to the Mission at Stanhope Street, Belfast, is always we come. A devotional service was conducted by Mrs. E. R. Jackson, in the opening of the winter session of the Women's League.

* * *

All Saints' and All Souls' days begin the month. In years gone by very successful musical festivals were held at All Souls' Church. We are reminded of the tradition, that next year the fifteenth hundred anniversary of the landing of St Patrick near Saul, Downpatrick. St. Patrick belongs to all Christians in Ireland, and he is equally ours with others.

* * *

Every Sunday at the close of Dr. Haynes Holmes' sermon in the Community Church the following "Invocation" is repeated.

"Unto the Church Universal, which is the depository of all ancient wisdom and the school of all modern thought; which recognises in all prophets a harmony, in all scriptures a unity, and through all dispensations a continuity; which abjures all that separates and divides, and always magnifies brotherhood and peace; which seeks truth in freedom, justice in love, and individual discipline in social duty; and which shall make of all sects, classes, nations and races, one fellowship of men—unto this Church, and unto all its members, known and unknown, throughout the world, we pledge the allegiance of our hands and hearts."

Tenth United Ulster Hall Service.

The Tenth United Service organised by the Laymen's League and the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland will be held in the Ulster Hall, on Sunday, 22nd November, when Rev. Herbert Barnes, of Newcastle-on-Tyne will be the preacher.

This is now the tenth year that these services have been held. Many and varied have been the speakers, but the one outstanding is that there has been a meeting place for the members of all our Churches in Northern Ireland at least once a year. Originally started in 1922 as a protest against the unfair attacks on our body by irresponsible preachers, it has been found possible to carry on from year to year, not merely as a protest meeting, but as an encouragement and help to many who did not realise the strength and fervour of our Liberal Church.

We have found out how closely interwoven our people are with all the best and most earnest work for God and Humanity in our Northern Province. In quiet devotion to religion, in education, in social advance, in industry, our members have left their impress on Northern Ire and and have played a worthy part in Ulster Communal life.

Once again we appeal to our friends to give their support. The preacher is a son of Ulster who has made for himself a name and fame as an exponent of Liberal Christianity across the channel; we should be proud of his ability. We call on all who can to help make this meeting worthy of its predecessors, and the great cause it represents.

"Up or Down?"

This is a famous football cry in a North of England town, well-known to some of our readers. Has man risen or fallen? One of the Indian Scriptures tells how the ark containing the seeds of life floated on the great waters, towed along by a big fish, with a horn on its snout to which the rope was attached. Another story is that of a golden bull shattered to powder, and the gold dust scattered on the waters. The Mahabharata tells of how snakes talked. People smile when they hear of such stories, and a very learned man called them "babblings of infant humanity," though they are rather like some of the Bible stories. But what do you expect from the heathen? The story of the serpent tempting Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit, the fundamentalist maintains must be taken as literally true; as also that of Baalam's ass. As Father Ignatius remarked, "I would be quite willing to be an ass if only the Lord would speak through me."

St. Paul referring to an Old Testament story, said—"Which things are an allegory"—"an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." Why not then take others in the same way, including that of Eve eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. Thereby we are told—"Our first parents being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the estate wherein they were created, by sinning against God." On the strength of this story, which if people saw it in the books of other religions, instead of in their own, they would only smile at, we are to believe that the whole human race is accursed, that if a man who himself had never committed a sin, had to die, and because he had never known or believed this story could not accept all its sequent doctrines, he would perish everlast-

ingly, because he was born in sin. All his merits, all the purity of his life would be unavailing without saving faith in the meritorious work of Christ. "The object of faith is the work of Christ *for* you, not the work of the Spirit *in* you." All this has its foundation in the doctrine of the Fall of Man. Genesis is the book which comes first on the list, and we are informed now that it is not by any means the oldest book, but, came into the Old Testament rather late in the day. Paul makes reference to the first man Adam, and the physical and spiritual ancestries of man might be implied from his words, though exception might be taken to such a construction. The reason why "evolution" is so strongly opposed by the fundamentalist is that it knocks away the foundation of the whole of the structure, which tumbles down like a house of cards. Man has not fallen but risen. Man is not inherently corrupt, he is divine.

ULLIN.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

The Quarterly Meeting was held at Moneyrea, on Saturday, October 3rd. A party of 60 journeyed from Belfast by special bus, joined by two members from Ballyclare, and the President, Mrs. Eustace Thompson, of Cairncastle. The devotional service in the newly decorated Unitarian Church was conducted by Mrs. J. H. Ewbank (Mountpottinger), the Rev. J. D. Davies officiating at the organ.

Miss Wills Sayers, B.A., gave the address at the after-meeting, taking for her subject—"Nature's Sowing Machine," telling of the wonderful methods Nature adopts for broadcasting seeds of every kind, through the agency of wind, water, birds, insects, animals and man himself, though often it was man who disturbed Nature's balance which was so wonderfully arranged by God.

The votes of thanks, which included the speakers, the organist, and tea makers, was proposed by the President from the chair and seconded by Mrs. S. P. Whitehouse (All Souls' Belfast).

Miss Armstrong (First Church, Belfast,) brought greetings from the Central Committee in London and a report of League House activities.

The Moneyrea branch is the newest and smallest of the branches of the Ulster District and stands as an example of what can be accomplished by small numbers and great enthusiasm.

York Street Anniversary.

Again the Anniversary Service held in the Ulster Hall has been a great success. The large hall was crowded to overflowing, right from the organ to the back of the hall, and as many were turned away from the door as would have made an overflow meeting to fill the Minor Ulster Hall or York Street N.S.P. Church itself. The singing led by the Edenderry Brass and Reed Band was most impressive. Three well-known hymns were sung, "O God, our help in ages past"; the 23rd Psalm, and "Abide with Me." By special arrangement, the same hymn was sung, which was also being sung in a Church in America, where a similar service was being held, at the same time, allowing for difference of longtitude: "Forward shoulder to shoulder, Fling the banner of youth"; it was "The Youth Hymn." Mr. Agnew gave this explanation in announcing the hymn. The solo "The Lord is my Light" was exquisitely rendered by Miss Geraldine Costigan. The Rev. A. L. Agnew spoke on the subject—"Is Civilization Collapsing?" taking for his test, Isa., LXV, 22. "They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat." There were conditions in the days of the old prophet in many ways similar to what the world is now suffering from; but, he had the vision of a time when life would be more just and under happier conditions. The preacher touched upon the present grave crisis, keeping the unwavering attention of his congregation and relieving the strain by flashes of humour, building up his theme to the culmination of the message of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. Such a service demands a great deal of hard work beforehand from minister and people.

ULLIN.

Unitarian College, Manchester.

There were good attendances at the opening of the Session, the opening address being given by the Principal. the Rev. H. McLachlan, D.D., whose subject was "Alexander Gordon, the man and his work." The late Mr. Gordon was a predecessor of the lecturer at the college for many years and a theologian and scholar of wide reputation. After his resignation he continued, as Mr. McLachlan pointed out, to the end of his life to maintain a deep personal influence on the life of the college.

In his address the speaker mentioned that Mr. Gordon contributed to the "Dictionary of National Biography," and wrote with

lucidity and accuracy yet not without humour. He had an extensive knowledge of languages, ancient and modern. He travelled widely, too, in search of materials for his works, in Holland, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Hungary. Though not a mere laudator temporis acti, he lived a good deal in the past, and was familiar with Nonconformist history in this country. There were few volumes of the last thirty years of denominational history that did not acknowledge indebtedness to him. Mr. Gordon's ministerial service in Belfast before coming to the college, his distinction as a bibliographer, his connection with the theological faculty in the University, and his work in the Unitarian College were all touched upon by the lecturer.

The Rev. F. H. Vaughan, B.A., addressed the Past and Present Students' Union on "The Facility of Broadcast Education" giving the result of his own experience in Liverpool. He urged that ministers should consider seriously whether their Church life, particularly on the intellectual side, would not be enriched by the formation of wireless discussion groups. The Rev. Arthur Pearson was in the chair.

Bodel-Mackenzie Benevolent Fund.

The Trustees have pleasure in announcing that there will be an election of Beneficiaries to the Fund at the Quarterly Meeting held on December 10th, 1931. The Fund makes grants not exceeding £20 to Spinsters of 55 years and upwards, who are in reduced and poor circumstances, and who have been at least five years prior to date of application, members of a Church connected with the Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterian and other Free Christians. Application Forms for the December election can be obtained up to November 30th, 1931, by applying to the Assistant Secretary, REV. D. J. WILLIAMS, The Manse, Killinchy, Belfast.

Ministers' Conference.

The Ministers met at Antrim, on October 5th, and very much enjoyed their visit to the beautiful Manse there; the Rev. and Mrs. G. V. Crook being the host and hostess. A paper was read by the Rev. Percival Godding on "Broadcasting." The B.B.C. provides the public with complete services without interruption from the Organists' opening voluntary to the close—even hearing the congregation leaving the church, from the larger denominations. When our turn comes (at very rare intervals) we have to broadcast from a studio. Thousands no doubt listen gratefully to the Thursday afternoon service from Westminster Abbey. Then the short morning service from 10-15 to 10-30 is probably listened to by many thousands, especially invalids. Reference was made to twelve lectures from "Different Points of View" under the heading of "Science and Religion," which was summed up by Dr. L. P. Jacks, and this reference gave rise to some very interesting remarks. Broadcasting is new, say six years, and is becoming a big force for influencing the world. In the British Isles alone 3,000,000 individuals have paid their 10/- this year. For every licence how many are there listening in? Many points for discussion and reflection were raised.

Reviews.

"In League with Life"—Rev. J. Tyssul Davis, B.A. C. W. Daniel Co., London, 2/-.

All who know the author personally recognise him as an original, fearless thinker and in the series of discourses presented to us under this title, we have life; though here and there as in the chapter 'Successful Pious Frauds" we may take strong exception and consider his criticisms too drastic, there is a deeper meaning than crude literalism. There are many types of human beings, those who temperamentally require ceremonial and to whom it is a ready and effective help; while again there are those of an entirely opposite type. There have been priests who were prophets of God, and a statement such as the following is untrue and insulting to a great Church as well as offensive to thousands of earnest, devout people. "There is no intrinsic difference between the witch-doctor and the Anglican bishop. The fundamental assumption is one and the same. I say the assumption of the priest (presbyteratus) is false to the core."

However, the book is stimulating and instructive reading. Identifying "Life" with "God," he gives us much that is perhaps best appreciated in the quiet of the country, as in "Tides in the Ocean of Spirit." "For just as there is such a bad thing as *mob-law*, so there is such a good thing as a Group-Soul, engendered by a collective desire. A common courage as of a troop of soldiers launched on a desperate sortie, a common longing as of a beseiged city, a thousand emotions fixed into a single incandescent light; a marshalled prayer, a host marching as one as welded

the Pilgrim Fathers and the sons of Mormon; a thousand snowfalls pressing down into an avalanche, loosened and carrying everything before it. That is the condition essential for the descent of the Pentecostal Flames." An entertaining chapter is God's use of anæsthetics. "To their theological enemies the surgeons retorted, but the Lord Himself made use of anæsthetics, for is it not written that previous to the surgical operation He performed on Adam in taking one of his ribs and closing up the flesh instead thereof, the Lord God *caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam*, and he slept." (Gen. II, 21).

"You perceive in the ancient legend what is the order of merit:

1.—First the *creative craft*. The garden and the plants and herbs.

2.—Then the *gardener*, Adam, to look after the garden.

3.—Then the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.—*Ethics*.

4.—Then man's comrades—the animals which were brought to Adam that he might name them.—*Zoology and Botany*.

5.—Then came *Surgery* - the extraction of the rib, the first successful operation.

6.—And as a result of this art—*Woman*—an afterthought.

"Burns," of course, turns this order to his advantage:

'His prentice hand he tried on man,
And then He made the lasses o' ' '"—J.B.

"Teachers' Handbooks,"--Lindsey Press, 1/- each, edited by Bertram Lister, M.A. The first issue of these handbooks of Graded Religious Instruction, each series to be complete in sixteen quarterly issues, has been received (October—December). In the scheme there were four series designed to be issued from Primary to Senior. "It has been thought advisable, chiefly for financial reasons, to postpone publication of the lessons projected for the Primary and Senior Departments, the need of the Junior and Intermediate Departments being the more urgent." The use of the manuals presupposes a Teachers' Preparation Class or Study Circle, a most valuable institution where one can be arranged and it is hoped that the handbooks will appeal to Teachers who wish to approach their work from the liberal religious standpoint, which of course is not confined to the bounds of the General Assembly. The Art of Teaching has developed tremendously during the last fifty years, and these manuals give in concentrated form the substance of school method, in the instruction in teaching itself. There are model lessons with valuable hints as to choice and arrangement of subject matter. 'In early days the name for Christianity was 'The Way.' It is the function of the Intermediate School, and indeed of the whole of our school, to teach the youth of the age to thread this 'Way' courageously and worthily." J.B.

Our Indian Mission.

An appeal is being sent to District Associations and Assemblies inviting their co-operation in making this Mission more widely known and arranging for speakers to be heard, in furthering the appeal. The work comes under the main heads: (1) The influential Theistic movement or Brahmo Somaj. (2) The Indian Unitarian Churches of the Khasi Hills. (3) The Indian Unitarian Church at Madras. Mr. Ratter in his report of his work in India states that it was evident that abundant opportunities of fruitful labour awaited any man who could work with the Brahmo Churches. Their work is on a somewhat different line from that of the Unitarian Churches, because the Brahmo Somaj was a spontaneous native movement. Khasi Hill Unitarians are in difficulties because *they are in want of adequate leadership, and they are losing their younger people*. The Madras Church has for their minister an Indian, a Mr. Samuel, and has applied to England for a grant for repairs. We have at present one of the greatest opportunities in India, which has as yet presented itself.

R. W. MOFFETT & CO.

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Open to members of the Women's League, and Women and Girls belonging to our Congregation.

BED, BATH, AND BREAKFAST, 5/-.

APPLY, giving a few day's notice to: **MISS HERMANN, The Warden.**

REPORTS.

Antrim.—The Old Presbyterian Meeting-House was crowded on Sunday afternoon, September 20th, when the Moderator (Rev. G. J. Slipper) preached an eloquent sermon from 1 Cor. xii. 15-21. The music was led by Mr. Albert Taylor, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., organist of the First Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Street, Belfast. Miss Curran, L.R.A.M., sang two solos, entitled "Come unto Me," and "O for a closer walk with God," which were greatly appreciated by everyone present; seldom has Antrim listened to such exquisite music throughout. The collectors were: Dr. Adams, J.P., Messrs. R. Kirk, J.P., John Erskine, L. J. Holmes, J. L. Clark, M.B.E., and F. T. Smith, J.P. The little church looked beautiful since the recent renovation, and the entire service was greatly enjoyed by the large congregation of all denominations which filled the old historic Meeting-House.

All Souls, Belfast.—Harvest thanksgiving services were held on Sunday, October 4th. The church at both services had good congregations, being filled in the evening. All Souls is one of the most beautiful churches in Ireland and lends itself to decoration. The preacher was the Rev. S. P. Whitehouse.

First Presbyterian Church, Belfast.—It is not unfitting that our Sunday school should celebrate its anniversary on the Sunday when the church is adorned with the rich colour of flowers, the grace of grain and fruit and the glory of other products of the ageless earth. The dull tones of the First Church interior blossomed into gaiety and gladness at the touch of friendly hands working on the gifts kindly sent by members who can still share in the last fine careless rapture of nature and the seasons rising to the climax of autumn in God's year of wonder ceaselessly repeated. All the services contributed to an outstanding day. At morning service the excellent plan was again followed of having the scholars all together in the body of the church so that the school was a visible and felt presence in the congregation. In the afternoon the united service of our Belfast Sunday Schools was well attended and was conducted by Mrs. Davies of Comber, whose address, with its varied pattern of precept and story, held the attention and the understanding of even the youngest scholars, and our schools are indebted to her for her words of helpful wisdom and winsome simplicity. In the evening there was a special Musical Service, when the organist, Mr. Albert Taylor, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., and the choir gave an uplifting rendering of Haydn's Oratorio, "The Creation." The church was filled, floor and galleries, and we have never seen a larger congregation at our harvest services. The congregational singing of other old hymns was glorious; the well-known soloists gave a sensitive interpretation of the airs and recitatives, while the splendid instrumentation of Mr, Taylor lent full and massive support to the choir in the great choruses. The minister took advantage of the very large congregation to make an impassioned appeal to all to realise and discharge their responsibility for securing the harvest of moral and spiritual achievement produced by the sowing of the great spirits of the generations gone by. The fate of the country and of humanity depends on the ideas and actions of every individual citizen to-day.

Ballyhemlin.—The church was filled for the harvest thanksgiving on October 4th. The decorations, which were much admired, were the work of Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Hoy, Miss R. Anderson, Miss A. Brown, Miss Mary O'Neill, and Miss M. Fullerton. Well known harvest hymns were sung, and Mrs. Tilson of Greyabbey very kindly gave her services at the organ. Rev. John Barron was the preacher. Collection amounted to £7.

Downpatrick.—The First Presbyterian Non-Subscribing Church celebrated the harvest festival on Sunday. An augmented choir, with Miss M. Dickson ably presiding at the organ, sang the anthem, "O Lord my God," and the usual harvest hymns with fine harmony. Hearty thanks are due to the friends of all denominations, who contributed gifts for the decorations, and especially to those who so kindly assisted in the praise. Rev. Jas. M'Neil, the new pastor, discoursed in the morning on the parable of the sower, comparing the different conditions of mind and heart with which men and women listened to the preaching of the word. In the evening the text was 1st Cor. iii., 6. He indicated man's part by brain and hand in agricultural production, and how God gave the increase. Reference was made to the present day anomoly of want in the midst of abundance and the economic difficulties of the nations. The nations must come together. And if religion was to play the leading part as it should there must be a strong spirit of unity among the Churches. Collection £11.

Women's League.—The Stanhope Street branch of the Women's League opened its winter session on September 7th with a service in the Mission Church conducted by

Mrs. E. R. Jackson. Miss Bruce and Miss Hutton were the hostesses for tea, and Mesdames Hay and Hamilton gave vocal and musical items. On September 28th Mr. Ernest Geary, the Belfast superintendent of Dr. Barnardo's Homes, gave a most interesting talk on "Rescue Work of Dr. Barnardo's Homes." The members were invited to view the Ormeau Bakery on October 19th. Winter work is in full swing, and materials for patchwork will be gratefully received by Mrs. E. R. Jackson at the Depository Rosemary St., or collected if desired.

Holywood—The harvest thanksgiving services were held in the First Presbyterian Church on October 4th, and passed off very successfully. The special preacher was the Moderator (Rev. G. J. Slipper) who delivered appropriate discourses, and whose visit and services were much appreciated. The church was beautiful y adorned for the festival, and special music was given by an augmented choir under the direction of Mr. W. J. Harvey (organist). The anthems were: "Great is the Lord and marvellous," and "Praise the Lord, O my soul," and the solos were sung by Mr. James Shannon, jun. In addition to the morning and evening services, Mr. Slipper conducted a children's service in the afternoon. There were large congregations, especially in the evening, when the church was crowded.

Antrim Presbytery.—At the quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of Antrim on 1st October, the Moderator (Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A.) extended, on behalf of the brethren, a cordial welcome to the Rev. James M'Neil, the newly-ordained minister of our Downpatrick congregation.

Newry.—The annual harvest thanksgiving services were held on Sunday, September 27th, and Monday the 28th. There were large congregations at all the services, the church on Sunday evening being quite full. It was very tastefully decorated by willing helpers and presented a beautiful appearance. A feature of the decorations were the strings of Wild Rose berries which were gathered and strung together by the children of the Sunday School. Rev. Geo. J. Slipper conducted the service on Sunday morning; and the Rev. A. L. Agnew on Sunday evening, who preached an earnest and stirring sermon from the text, "Bring no more vain oblations, incense is an abomination unto me, the new moons and the Sabbaths, the calling of assemblies I cannot away with; it is iniquity even the solemn meeting. When ye spread forth your hands I will hide mine eyes from you; yea when you make many prayers I will not hear" (Isaiah, chap. 1, verses 13-15). The service was continued on Monday evening when the Rev. J. H. Ewbank officiated. The music was an outstanding feature. An anthem, "A Harvest Hymn of Praise" was splendidly rendered by the choir; a quintette, "If ye love Me, keep my commandments," was exquisitely sung by Mrs. M'Kinstry, Mrs. M'Kee, Mrs. David Craig, Mr. O. R. Morris and Mr. Robert Adamson; and solos, "The Lord is my Shepherd" by Mr. James Craig, and "May peace with thee abide" by Miss Doreen King, were rendered with great taste and acceptance. Mrs. Slipper ably presided at the organ.

Warrenpoint.—The annual harvest thanksgiving service in connection with this very old and historical church, was held in the afternoon of October 11th, when the Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., of York Street, Belfast, was the special preacher. His eloquent sermon was greatly appreciated. Also his kindness and the kindness of his Belfast friends, in coming so far at great inconvenience to themselves. A feature of the service was the special music provided by Mr. Ellis, of Belfast, who gave a most delightful rendering of, "How lovely are thy dwellings" and a solo and an anthem by an augmented choir from Newry. The harvest hymns were also sung most heartily. The church was beautifully decorated, the abundance of corn and the profusion of flowers, (many of which were artistically arranged in hanging baskets) being very noticeable, also, there were quantities of strings of chestnuts and wild rose berries which had been contributed by the children. Mrs. Slipper presided at the organ. The attendance was very good and the collection excellent.

Killinchy.—The harvest thanksgiving services on October 4th and 5th were held under favourable conditions. Contributions for decorations were received from many quarters and displayed by the ladies with willing hands, many workers contributing to the success of the festival. The flowers, fruit, grain and other products of nature were in profusion. The local minister was the morning preacher. In connection with the harvest thanksgiving he took the opportunity to refer to the national crisis which has overtaken Great Britain and Northern Ireland as well as the slump in the economic condition of the

civilized world. The evening preacher was the Rev. J. A. Kelly, an old and valued friend of this congregation, who for over 50 years has been intimately acquainted with its fortunes. Interspersed with recollections of old times, he eloquently testified to the Christian spirit as proceeding from the head of the Church and the desirability of Christian co-operation for the establishment on earth of the Kingdom of God. On the Monday evening the series was brought to a close, when we were fortunate in securing the services of the Rev. J. Glynne Davies. The devotional service was inspiring enhanced by a strenuous sermon from the Christian view point, detailing with great power the value of the religious life. Special harvest hymns led by the choir were sung throughout the series, and the anthem, "The earth is the Lord's," was given by an augmented choir. Miss J. Russell, organist, presided with great distinction at all the services. Special quarterly collections were taken with increased contributions.

Banbridge.—Our harvest thanksgiving services were held on 4th October, attended by very good congregations, especially in the evening. Our church was most beautifully decked with fruit and grain, flowers and autumnal tinted foliage. The ladies who busied themselves during the three week-days are to be thanked for, and congratulated on the truly artistic results. The singing of the augmented choir, under the able accompaniment at the organ of the talented Miss Dornan, most ably led the praise portion of the service; and the solos from Miss Helen Stevenson, Messrs Kenneth Shorter and Hugh Chambers (sympathetically rendered) were much appreciated. The anthems were "The Eyes of all wait upon Thee" and "I will feed my Flock." We believe that even a visitor from the city was impressed. The Rev. Nicol Cross, M.A., conducted both services, and his harvest sermons will live in the memory of his hearers for some time to come—they were eminently practical and appealing. The collections (a little higher than usual on this occasion) were devoted to the support of a very worthy charity—The Royal Victoria Hospital.

York Street, Belfast.—A handsome silver-plated cruet of individual-communion-cups, of glass, about eighty in number, is on view in the window of the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, and bears the following inscription: "From the staff of the American Unitarian Association, to the York Street Church, Belfast, Ireland, in grateful and

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland and Unitarian Laymen's League.

—:o:—

The Tenth Annual United Service will be held in

ULSTER HALL,

ON SUNDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 1931,

AT 7 O'CLOCK.

PREACHER:

REV. HERBERT BARNES,

NEWCASTLE ON TYNE.

The Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland (REV. G. J. SLIPPER) will preside.

SPECIAL MUSIC BY UNITED CHOIRS.

DOORS OPEN 6-30.

ALL FRIENDS WELCOME.

— **The Unitarian and** —

Free Christian Laymen's League.

—:o:—

BELFAST CHAPTER

meets in the CENTRAL HALL, ROSEMARY STREET, at 8 p.m., Third Thursday of the month, October to May, inclusive.

—:o:—

OBJECTS (inter alia).

To encourage laymen to take a more active part in the work of the Churches.

To form a bond of union and closer co-operation between the members of the various congregations.

—:o:—

The Committee invite those who are not already members to join. The minimum subscription is 2/6, and further particulars may be obtained from—

MR. J. H. GILLILAND,

35 Rosemary St., Belfast, Hon. Sec.

MR. J. EDMONDSON, Jr., Asst. Hon, Sec.

19 Lime Street, Belfast.

appreciative commemoration of the inspiring visit of the Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., to the American Churches."

Mountpottinger.—Harvest services were held on October 18th, when good congregations were seen. The special preachers for the occasion were, Rev. S. P. Whitehouse, of All Souls' Church in the morning; and the Moderator (Rev. G. J. Slipper) in the evening. In keeping with tradition, the church had been tastefully decorated by members of the Women's League, assisted by the minister and certain male members of the congregation. For the afternoon, our organist, Mr. H. Shepherd, had arranged a musical service, at which a cantata entitled "A Joyful Thanksgiving" was rendered by an augmented choir, and the following principals: Miss Freda Forbes, Soprano; Mrs. J. Allen, Contralto; Mr. R. Adams, Tenor; Mr. S. Adams, Bass; Accompanist, Mr. W. Harvey; Conductor, Mr. H. Shepherd. At the morning service, Master Bassett M'Cullough was the soloist, his rendering of "Oh for the wings of a dove," being really good for so young a singer. It is believed to be the first occasion on which a boy has sung a solo at the church. Mrs. John Allen contributed the solo at the evening service, her choice being "How lovely are thy dwellings." Mr. Shepherd is to be congratulated on the standard of music maintained throught the day.

York Street, Belfast.—The Ulster Hall service was held on 4th October. In spite of many harvests in the city and country and the inclement weather, the attendance was larger than ever. Mr. Walker and Mr. Senior with Mrs. Senior, who crossed from England especially for the service, were welcome guests. Work in York Street is now in full swing. With the exception of Monday night, when the hall is let; there will be some activity every week night till the end of March. There have been already two debates, two dramatic performances and two lectures at the Thursday Guild. The new swimming club made a splendid start on Tuesday 13th, when upwards of a hundred members attended the opening event in Falls Baths. There are over fifty swimming members and the club is mixed. Parties from York Street attended Dromore and Crumlin harvests. Our minister preached at Newry, Dromore, Ballycarry and Warrenpoint, making the journey to the latter place and back without interrupting the usual Sunday programme in York Street. Attendances have improved in the mornings, and the church is now quite full in the evenings. It is good to see the number of country visitors who are entertained each Sunday. The individual communion set, presented by the Staff of the American Unitarian Association to the church, to commemorate the visit of the minister to the United States, has been received and is at present on view in the Depository window. On October 31st, Mr. Agnew is due to preach the annual sermon for the Yorkshire Unitarian Union, at Bradford, and on Sunday will occupy the pulpit at Mill Street.

Larne and Kilwaughter.—On October 11th, harvest thanksgiving services were held here. The church was beautifully decorated. With taste and skill the varied tints of autumn were harmoniously assembled, fruits and flowers blending in a colour scheme, good and pleasant to look upon. We are deeply indebted to our ladies for the time and care they expended in making the church once again so beautifully adorned for the harvest. The services on Sunday were very successful, the attendance being, we believe, larger than in previous years. An augmented choir sang with fine effect Stainer's anthem, "Ye shall dwell in the land," and our choirmaster, Mr. Gordon, rendered two solos: "Nearer my God to Thee" and "The Harvesters Night Song," to the delight of all present. The minister, Rev. John Begg, was the preacher for the day, and he wishes to record his appreciation of and sense of gratitude for the privilege of sharing in a service that was undoubtedly successful and so very happy.

Moneyrea.—The harvest thanksgiving services were held on October 4th and 5th. The meeting house was beautifully decorated by the ladies of the congregation, with flowers, fruit, vegetables and other gifts, kindly contributed by the members, and also the two miniature stacks of corn deserve to be mentioned. The preacher on Sunday morning and evening was the Rev. J. Glynne Davies, Comber, who delivered two excellent sermons, which were very appropriate and highly appreciated. On Sunday evening, Mrs. Dr. Murphy, Comber, very kindly came to assist us, and gave a beautiful rendering of the solo: "How lovely are thy dwellings," which was followed by a quartette entitled, "God is a Spirit," rendered by Mrs. Dr. Murphy, Miss Adams, Rev. J. Glynne Davies, Rev. J. D. Davies. The service on Monday evening was conducted by the minister. The singing of the harvest hymns at all the

services was hearty and inspiring. The choir sang very effectively two anthems, "Come unto Me" and "The Lord is my Shepherd," on Sunday morning and Monday evening. The Organist, Miss M. Doyle; and the choir deserve our best thanks as well as praise for their share in the success of he services.

BELFAST DOMESTIC MISSION.

With the approach of winter the need to replenish the wardrobes of one's family is apparent in the minds of all heads of households.

The committee of the Belfast Domestic Mission would be exceedingly grateful if, before discarding out-worn garments, friends would put some aside for needy families connected with the Mission.

Children's garments suitable for boys of 5, 6 and 7 years of age and girls of 10 months and 3 years urgently needed.

Parcels may be left in the Depository, or send a postcard to Mrs. E. R. Jackson, Myrtle Bank, Ravenhill Road, Belfast, who will arrange to collect.

Atonement.

Many Churchmen, including some of the most illustrious saints and scholars, have from age to age propounded theories of Atonement, but the Church as such has never committed itself to any particular theory but only to the fact. Therefore, short of a direct denial of the fact, heresy on such a point is hardly possible unless it be by implication. The Fall and its Reversal are like two poles around the connecting axis of which almost all the theology of the Christian Church revolves; all the points are so theologically linked together that a modern Cyril, with his prototype's keen scent for heresy, might detect, lurking in some unusual teaching of Atonement a heresy on another point which might seem to be wholly unconnected with it; for instance in any view the Atonement is founded on the Incarnation and thus an unusual teaching on the Atonement, though in itself blameless, might be attacked as a heresy on the ground that it involved heretical views on the Incarnation. But in itself, any theory of the Atonement is ecclesiastically blameless, though it may be, as some theories actually have been, morally wrong, blasphemous and intectually impossible. Rt. Rev. F. W. Pigott, M.A. (Oxon).

ST. PATRICK.

Attention is being called to the claim that next year is the fifteenth hundred anniversary of the landing of St. Patrick in Strangford Lough, near Saul, Downpatrick, to begin his missionary work in Ireland. In those days it was like Dr. Livingstone's missionary exploration of Africa. As Christians we share in the gratitude for the pioneer work then done. It all happened a very long time ago, and there is little material that can be called reliable. The South claims him as much as the North, and Slieve-na-mann is a sacred mount associated with him. There has been a surmise, that there were really two Patrick's, one in the South and one in the North and that the southern one was much younger and did not live very long, and that the two became focussed as one in history. To have converted the greater part of Ireland, even allowing for a long life, in the face of all the difficulties which opposed him was a very great work. He landed in 432 A.D., and lived to an advanced age, one hundred and six, for he died in the year 493, at Saul, near Downpatrick. His relics were shown there up to the time of the Reformation.

THE

TEACHERS' HANDBOOKS

OF

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(Prepared by the Religious Education Department of the General Assembly)

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Subsidy Fund.

The Hon. Treas. begs to acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions—Larne Congregation Annual Subscription, £2; Mrs. E. Thompson, Ballygally, £1.

A number of reports which have come in, after we have gone to press, are held over for want of space until next month. Ed.